

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 24, No. 2

February 15, 1956

Whole No. 281

ROVER BOY CARL LINVILLE

by Charlie Duprez

Quite by chance and due to a lot of sleuthing and double checking I not only found out a lot of high jinks by our well known Brother, Carl, but also brought to light a photo of the harum scarum hombre. Carl told me that the photo was taken shortly after he had emerged from his second term in the hospital and I gathered from that he does not appear at his prettiest, but anyway it gives us a good idea.

He was born in Kentucky, Jan. 2, 1896 and raised in and around Lexington.

Nothing exciting appears on my notations between the age of 1/5th of a second and when he was fourteen. From there on gives excitement. What do you fellows know what a fourteen year old boy will do when he gets the bright idea to do something no other kid had the nerve to do. Not far from where he lived was a railroad track. On this track, like all railroad tracks, a train would run. When it was too dark for the engineer to see, he drapes himself between the rails and lets the train roll over him. Wadda guy.

It was shortly after this the boy hero began to roam hither and yon, especially yon. Every so often he would return home just so his parents wouldn't forget what he looked like.

Now in order to roam, unless one wants to be classified as a first class hobo, one works. This he did. Working in the cotton fields and various factories. His roaming took him through 31 states, always on the move when fancy dictated. Coming



back to Kentucky in 1915 World War I bust wide open and he was swept into the ranks. Carl claims the Germans quickly took off when he got into the fray. Although no bullets penetrated his skin, where the bullets failed, gas took over and gave him quite a dose. Up until 1926 he was in and out of hospitals until finally he was declared cured.

The Rover Boy was still in him and remains in his blood to this day. So in order to keep moving, he goes into the railway business, consisting of becoming a motorman for the Cincinnati Transit Co.

He first began to buy and read dime novels in November 1905. He bought and read most of the colored cover issues up to 1917 when World War I caught up with him. By the

time he was back as a civilian the old timers had all but vanished. The mice had destroyed the batches he had had in his possession, so he drifted away from reading and collecting. While reading the December issue of Acc High Magazine he saw an ad of Fred Lee's announcing that he had dime novels for sale. He sent for some and that started him collecting again. His favorite is Tip Top which

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RALPH F. CUMMINGS — Fisherville, Mass.

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